Strange and wonderful News from Stow-Market, IN SUFFOLK.

Being a true Relation, of a moſt dreadful Earthquake, which happened there, and at other places near adjacent, on the 31th of *May* laſt paſt; as it was communicated in Letter, by a Faithful Miniſter of the Goſpel, Mr. *Henry Shute*, to his Brother Mr. *Richard Shute* Living in *Charter-Houſe-Lane*, near *Smithfield-Bars*, *London*

14 June 1682.

DEar Brother, after my kind Love to you, and returning you thanks for your laſt kindneſs, if this News of our dreadful Tempeſt have not already reached your Ears, take this following Acoount, part of which my ſelf, with ſome of our Relations and friends were Spectators of.

On *Wedneſday* laſt, being the 31th of *May*, your Uncle and my ſelf went down to Mr. *Gerrards* in the Evening, to viſit Mr. *Smith* and his new Conſort which he had lately brought to Town. Whilſt we were there, the Heavens were covered with an unuſual darkneſs, about ſeaven of the Clock I was called to the Church to Baptize a Child, but (tho the Sun was then above an hour high) it was ſo exceſſive dark, that if I had not been the better acquainted with that Office, I ſhould ſcarcely have known how to perform it. All the whils *I* was in the Church, my Ears were filled with dreadful and aſtoniſhing Claps of Thunder and I could hardly ſee any thing but by the help of continued Flaſhes of Lightning as ſoon as I had performed that Ordinance, *I* haſtned again to Mr, *Gerrards*, where I was no ſooner enter'd, but there preſently aroſe a moſt violent Guſt of Wind, which ſhook the very Houſes to the Foundation and carried heaps of Earth and Gravel-ſtones up into the Air, in other places, it overturn'd ſeveral Barns, uncovered many Houſes, pluck'd up divers Trees by the Roots, and laid ſome a conſiderable diſtance from the places where they grew. Thunder and Lightning ſtill continued and in divers places fire was ſeen to run upon the Ground. Preſently after, there fell a prodigious ſtorm of Hail, our Windows were ſuddenly broaken all to pieces, multitudes of Hail-

ſtones came tumbling in, of an incredible magnitude. Some I took up with mine own hand, that were five or ſix Inches in Circumference. Our Company ſtood all trembling and amazed, never did I ſee People under ſuch a Conſternation, all Faces gathered blackneſs, every one expecting no leſs then ſuddain Ruine and Deſtruction, if any thing may be call'd an emblem of the Day of Judgment, this was: So terrible was the Voice of God in his Thunder. The violence of this Storm continued near upon two hours. In our Town the Glaſs windows are broaken all to pieces, in many of which (on the weather ſide) there is not one whole Quarrel left, a hundred and fifty pounds (as its thought) will not repair our broaken Glaſs. But notwithſtanding all this, we had but (as it were) the Skirts of the Tempeſt. For about *Needham*, *Stonham's*, *Newton*, &c. *It* was far more violent. *I* was inform'd by Mr. *Barton*, and *Goodman Bird* of *Stonham* (Perſons of Truth and Honeſty) that they ſaw heaps of *Haile-Stones*, each as big as *Turkey's Eggs* and next Morning (in thoſe parts) *Cart-loads* might have been taken up as big as *Hens Eggs*. Multitudes of *Rooks*, and other *Birds*, *Goſlings*, &c. Were found Dead next Morning, and in ſome places *Lambs*, and *Sheep*. *Wheat*, *Rye*, *Peaſe*, *Beans*, *Hops*, *Fruit*, &c. (in the Circuit where it went) are moſtly deſtroyed, many poor Farmers are utterly ruin'd if their Landlords do not prove merciful, for Fields of Corn that in the Morning, that day, might have been valued at fifty or an hundred pounds is now thought dear at forty ſhillings. This deſtructive Hail went about five miles in breadth, how far in length *I* cannot yet underſtand, yet it has not deſtroyed all the *Fruites* of the Earth where it went, but in many places (which is very ſtrange) there are whole *Fields* ſtands untouched, when all round, about it is wholly blaſted what loſs our Country have ſuſtain'd by this Judgment, cannot eaſily be known, but its thought 40000l will not repair it. Thus have I given you a ſhort account of the ſad affliction, yet *I* do not hear among all this Deſtruction that either Man Woman or Child. have loſt their Lives, tho divers have been bruis'd and wounded. But all this is the hand of a Righteous God, who have Various *Rods* to Scourg a ſinful and rebellious *Nation*.

This being all at preſent, *I* remain,

Stow-Market, Your loving Brother,

June the 5th. 1682. *Hen. Shute.*

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Midſummer-Day, 1695.

SIR,

THE Election of a *Sheriff* for this Famous City of *London*, the Metropolis of the Kingdom, is inveſted in the Citizens by *Preſcription*, and confirmed by **Magna Charta**; and the Choice of a Sheriff for the County of *Middleſex* is in the Right of the Citizens by *Purchaſe* from the Crown in *Fee-Simple*: And the Choice of both Sheriffs by the Citizens is confirmed to them by divers Acts of Parliament; which high Privilege lodg'd in the Citizens, is the beſt Jewel belonging to them, the Sheriffs ſo choſen being the Guardians of their Lives, Liberties and Properties. Therefore in a matter of ſo high importance, 'tis hoped the Citizens will have a juſt regard to the Perſons in whoſe Hands they put ſo great a Truſt, the Citizens themſelves being accountable for any Miſcarriage committed by the Sheriffs in their Office. Wherefore to ſecure the Citizens, and aſſert their Rights in their Elections, and to prevent the Miſchief of Fines for the Time to come, you are deſired to Vote (or Poll, if occaſion require) for theſe two Gentlemen following, *viz.*

GEORGE GOODAY, Eſq; and
GODFRY WEBSTER, Eſq;

To be Sheriffs of *London* and *Middleſex* for the Year enſuing, they being known to be Perſons well affected to the preſent Government, and qualified for the ſaid Office.